GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1943
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
POLLUTION IN MAJOR CITIES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the air and sound pollution is increasing day by day in four metropolitan cities of the country as well as in Bangalore, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Kanpur and Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of studies already undertaken/being taken/ to be taken on the issue and whether a time bound programme has been chalked out to control pollution;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by States as well as Centre to enforce emission norms for vehicles strictly and cancel Pollution Under Control Certificates of grossly smoking vehicles?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)&(b) Central Pollution Control Board, in coordination with the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees, regularly monitors the ambient air quality at 295 stations in 92 cities and towns including Bangalore, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Kanpur and Ahmedabad. Analysis of the ambient air quality data of the mentioned cities reveals reducing trends of the criteria pollutants, except for Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) which have shown marginal increase on some occasions in some of the cities. Noise surveys are conducted from time to time, especially during the festival season, which also indicated decrease of levels of noise pollution in some of the major cities of the country.

(c)&(d) City-specific plans have been prepared to control and regulate air pollution in these cities, which include various components like vehicular pollution, industrial pollution and burning of fossil fuels and other bio-mass. Government had constituted the Expert Committee on Auto Fuel Policy which proposed policy measures to reduce air pollution in the selected major cities of the country and have prepared a road map for their implementation, which include cleaner fuels and automobile technologies.

(e) The Government has taken various steps to control air and sound pollution, which include the following :-

- Notification of general and source specific emission standards.
- Enforcement of auto exhaust emission standards for new vehicles at manufacturing stage.
- Improved fuel quality.
- Use of beneficiated coal in the thermal power stations.
- Regular monitoring for compliance of environmental standards in 17 categories of industries.
- A road map up to 2010 has been developed to control vehicular pollution for both the new and in-use vehicles.
- New emission norms for in-use vehicles have been implemented from October, 2004.
- Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.
- Noise standards for firecrackers, automobiles, domestic appliances, construction equipment and generator sets have been notified and are at different stages of implementation.
- Awareness through electronic and print media about the ill-effects of noise pollution on human health and well being.